

**Town Manager's Office  
Town of Mansfield**

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: March 14, 2011  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

## **Council Requests for Information/Council Business**

- *Mansfield Community Center Pool* – Please see [item #7](#) in your packet for a memo from Parks & Recreation Director Curt Vincente in response to your questions about the accidental draining of the pool.
- *Mansfield Community Center Membership Fee Schedule* – Please see [item #8](#) in your packet for a memo from Parks & Recreation Director Curt Vincente in response to the questions about membership fees.
- *Roberge Property* – Director of Planning Gregory Padick has prepared a memo in response to the issue Mr. Roberge brought to the Council on February 14, 2011. Please see [item #6](#) in your packet for more information.

## **Departmental/Division News**

- *Emergency Management*
  - *January 11-12, 2011 Snow Storm* - President Obama has granted the request for a disaster declaration for the January 11–12 snow storm. The declaration includes public assistance for Category B work (emergency protective measures, including snow assistance). We anticipate receiving \$30,000–\$40,000 (the formal grant guidelines are not yet known) in grants for snow removal and protective measures from FEMA. The eligible costs include: overtime (generally regular hours are not eligible); equipment costs; and repair/replacement of damaged public facilities. Additional categories may be granted as FEMA and DEMHS survey costs and damage. In addition, FEMA, U.S. Department of Agriculture and or the Small Business Administration may offer assistance to private businesses, homeowners and agricultural businesses
  - *March 6-7, 2011 Flooding* - As a result of the heavy rains on March 6-7, the three rivers in Mansfield (Mount Hope, Fenton and Willimantic) flooded at the 10-year reoccurrence rate. The flooding closed Laurel Lane east of the bridge (impassable to vehicles, foot travel via old right of way to Chaplin) and Thornbush Road west of the railroad tracks (for the residents of the seven dwellings, travel by foot along the tracks is possible). In addition, Bassetts Bridge Road was closed due to flood control operations at Mansfield Hollow Dam. Bassetts Bridge Road remains presently closed due to flood control operations. DPW will inspect the road once the water has receded, remove any debris and make any necessary repairs prior to opening the road (in the past sections of the road have washed out and larger debris damaging guard rails and posts). During the storm there was one known power outage which impacted the Mansfield Middle School. CL&P restored power at 10:10AM and school remained open. DEMHS is presently conducting a damage assessment survey to make an initial determination of requesting assistance from FEMA for this storm and related flooding.
- *Finance* – As detailed in [item #10](#) of your packet, Moody's has reaffirmed Mansfield's Aa2 rating for our \$2.8 million issue of General Obligation bonds. Cherie Trahan and I attended last week's bond sale – Morgan Keegan & Co., Inc. was the successful bidder with a true interest cost of 3.277%, which is a more favorable rate than we had anticipated. I would like to commend Cherie for her work to manage our debt

service and to restore our fund balance. As we have discussed and as Moody's has highlighted, it will be important for the Town to continue its efforts to restore fund balance for the General Fund.

- ***Parks and Recreation***

- We've started using social networking (Facebook) to get the word out about our programs, special events and news about what's happening at the community center and in parks and recreation. We have over 400 people who "like" the Mansfield Community Center webpage. We've also been using Constant Contact to create emails about programs and events, and to target specific groups of people to receive this information.
- April 9<sup>th</sup> will be a busy day the Mansfield Community Center:
  - The Kids' Annual Flea Market will be held at the Community Center from 10AM-1PM. It's an opportunity for families to sell unwanted toys, sports equipment, etc. For registration information, please contact the community center.
  - The Little Angels Bicycle Drive will be held from 9AM-1PM. Have a tricycle, kids bicycle, adult bicycle or bicycle helmet that is taking up space and collecting dust? Please consider donating to the Little Angels Bicycle program. Bicycles that are received are evaluated and then repaired if necessary by the Little Angels staff before being distributed. Logon to [frebicycles@littleangelsbicycles.com](mailto:frebicycles@littleangelsbicycles.com) or call Little Angels directly at (860) 429-4290. The Little Angels will have a truck to collect bikes in at the community center.
  - Kids Fingerprinting is a FREE program sponsored by New York Life Insurance Company, to help keep our kids safe. Children are fingerprinted and photographed and ID cards are given to the parents. In case of emergency the parents have, in an easy to find kit, the child's photo, fingerprints, and other pertinent information needed by the police. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to have an ID made.

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *Storrs Center Project* – Staff has issued the building permit for work at 10 Dog Lane, which will be used as a temporary location for Select Physical Therapy while Phase 1A is constructed. This is the first building permit that we have issued for Phase 1A, which represents an important milestone for the project.

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Regulatory Review Committee, March 16, 2011, 1:15PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, March 16, 2011, 7:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, March 21, 2011, 6:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Finance Committee Meeting, March 21, 2011, 6:00PM, Conference Room A, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, March 21, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, March 21, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, March 21, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Authority, March 22, 2011, 10:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, March 22, 2011, 2:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Cemetery Committee, March 23, 2011, 3:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, March 23, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- **Special Town Council Meeting**, March 23, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, March 24, 2011, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, March 24, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, March 28, 2011, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*